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OCI No. 1942/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
9 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #270 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

While rebel leaders continue defiantly declaring their determination to continue the struggle until victory, there are more signs of tension and deteriorating morale in the rebel camp.

Rebel leader Caamano's speech yesterday was evidently designed to be a major policy statement. He repeated the rebels' determination to fight to the last man in defense of their cause. He bitterly condemned the United States and the Organization of American States for "momentarily forestalling the constitutionalist victory" and reiterated his earlier conditions for a peaceful settlement--restoration of the 1963 constitution and congress, integration of "constitutionalist" military officers into the Dominican armed forces, formation of a government under democratic leadership, and the "immediate departure of the interventionist forces."

Caamano implied that if a satisfactory political solution is not arrived at soon, there will be uprisings in the interior of the country. The people of the interior will also rise up "to defend their constitution," Caamano said. He closed his speech by repeating--and somewhat clarifying--a recent ambiguous statement by Juan Bosch. "If they wish to impose on us formulas contrary to democracy, then, as Bosch has said, we will find a solution." Bosch had said that "even without an agreement, there will be a solution this month."

Bosch himself issued a statement yesterday which was broadcast through telephonic hookup with Puerto

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Rico. His remarks seemed intended to heal any breaches that might be developing in the rebel camp. For the first time he publicly attacked former President Joaquin Balaguer. He charged that Balaguer's suggestion that both Imbert and Caamano should be made to leave the Dominican Republic reflected a lack of understanding on Balaguer's part of the real nature of the revolution. Balaguer, Bosch said, sees the revolution as merely another power struggle whereas it is actually, according to Bosch, a genuine revolutionary effort by the people to rid themselves of their heritage of "humiliation, hunger, maltreatment, injustice, and enslavement."

A press conference yesterday by rebel spokesman Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, a member of Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), was decidedly on the defensive. He went on at some length in an attempt to prove that the rebel movement is not Communist influenced. Yet, he warned, if the rebel cause is unsuccessful now, "this will play into Communist hands and we will have a Communist revolution in the Dominican Republic." Pena Gomez also reflected obvious concern over possible public support for the effort of Dominican civic and business leaders on behalf of an apolitical "third position" government. He made a point of denying that "some names" mentioned in the "third position" discussions had rebel support, strongly refuted the rumor that his party was split, and denied that Balaguer could win in a free election.

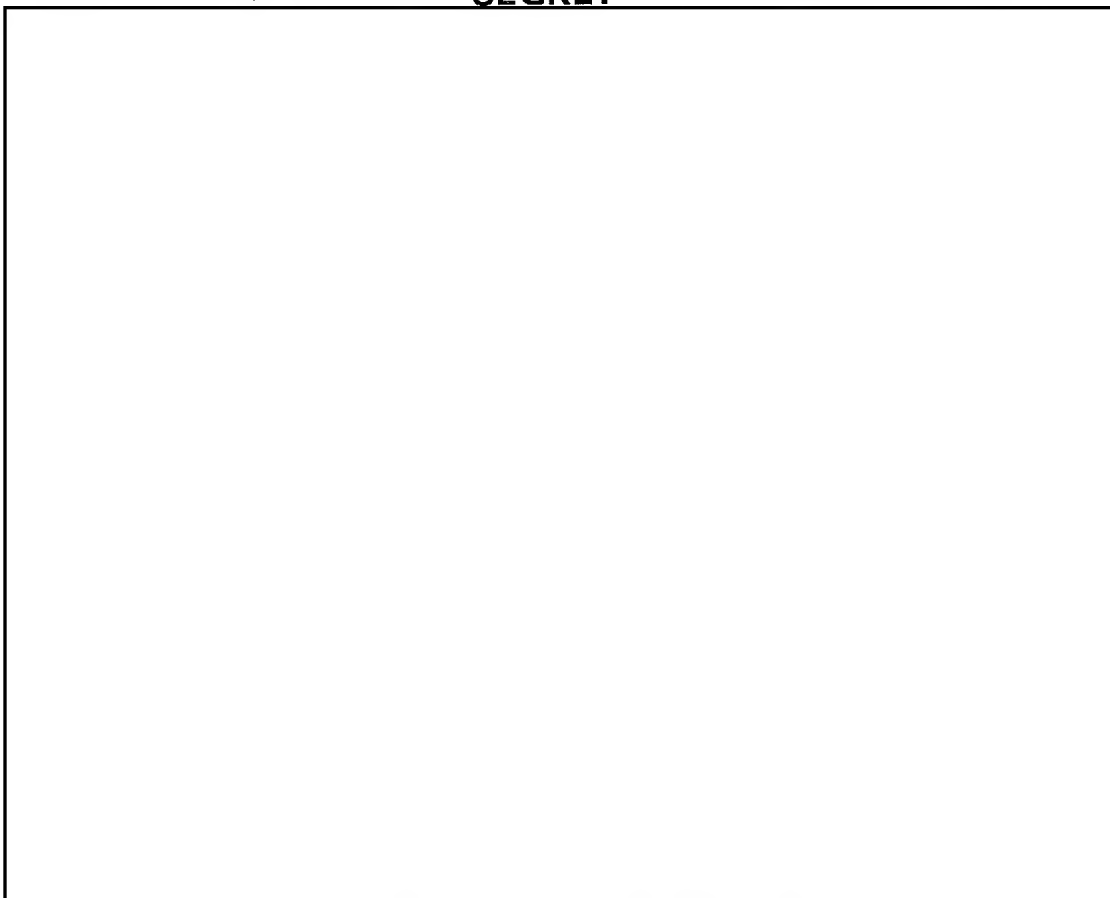
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Monday will be the sixth anniversary of the abortive Cuban-backed invasion and uprising against the Trujillo dictatorship and may well be marked by pro-rebel demonstrations. The pro-Castro 14th of June Political Group (APCJ), which takes its name from this event, is unlikely to permit the day to go unnoticed.

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Any public demonstrations could quickly be converted into armed clashes with the police and military.

Meanwhile, the Imbert government plans a rival demonstration for next Sunday. The loyalist radio has already begun calling for a wide turnout for a "parade of democratic reaffirmation" which is designed to "demonstrate to America and the world" the Dominican public's repudiation of Communism. The "parade" is evidently to be held in Santo Domingo.

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The Imbert government has received backing from a leading conservative figure who is widely respected as an opponent of the Trujillo dictatorship. Viriato Fiallo, Bosch's defeated opponent in the 1962 election, told Ambassador Bennett yesterday that he fully supports Imbert's government and that if it is forced out there would be a vacuum which few if any responsible Dominicans would be willing to fill. He insisted that the Caamano government is directly controlled by the Communists and recommends that Inter-American armed forces be removed to permit loyalist military action against the rebel stronghold.

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